

Message Text

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53

ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CG-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /038 W

----- 043778

R 142243Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5663

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DOT PASS SLSDC, MASSENA, FOR BUSH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CA

SUBJ: ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TOLLS

REF: OTTAWA 297

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH TCO ON FEB 14 PAUL NORMANDEAU, PRESIDENT, ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AUTHORITY, INDICATED HIS EXPECTATION GOC WILL PROPOSE NEGOTIATIONS WITH USG TO TAKE PLACE IN LATE SPRING-EARLY SUMMER (MAY TO JULY) PERIOD. MOT RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTER MARCHAND WERE ACCEPTED THIS MORNING AND MARCHAND HAS AGREED TAKE UP FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING QUESTION WITH PRIME MINISTER AND INNER CABINET IN NEXT TWO WEEKS. ASSUMING THEIR ATTITUDE IS FAVORABLE NORMANDEAU EXPECTS FULL CABINET APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE BY LATE MARCH AND FORMAL REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATIONS MADE TO USG IN APRIL. LEGISLATION TO ACCOMPLISH FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING WILL BE REQUIRED, BUT GAME PLAN DOES NOT INVOLVE ITS INTRODUCTION TO PARLIAMENT UNTIL AFTER CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH USG.

2. COMMENT: HOW WELL THIS SCENARIO WILL BE ADHERED TO WITHIN GOC REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION NORMANDEAU ADMITTED MOT PLANS HAVE NOT YET

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BEEN DISCUSSED WITH OTHER GOC DEPARTMENTS (NOTABLY

FINANCE AND TREASURY BOARD). A DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN
BY MARCHAND TO GO FIRST TO HIS POLITICAL COLLEAGUES
FOR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE EXPECTATION HAT
ONCE THIS IS SECURED THE DEPARTMENTS WILL SUPPORT
IT FULLY. THIS STRATEGY HAS POTENTIAL PITFALLS.
PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FINANCIAL STABILITY, TOLLS, ST LAWRENCE SEAWAY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA00551
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750056-0146
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750241/aaaabkzl.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DOTE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: OTTAWA 297
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TOLLS
TAGS: EWWT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006